
FOSSIL FUELS OR THE RIO TREATY — COMPETING VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Speech by

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I am honored to address this group on one of the great policy debates of our time: Should the human community encourage or discourage the utilization of fossil fuels as we conduct our affairs on planet Earth? As a corollary, if the road of discouragement is followed, should the human community ultimately eliminate the use of fossil fuels and substitute renewable energy in their stead?

These questions have already been addressed by the majority of the world's nations and, unknown to the hundreds of millions of citizens of those nations, both questions have been answered in the affirmative. The questions were asked and answered in the affirmative in June of 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. At that time, some 150 nations signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or the Rio Treaty as it has come to be known.

Article 2 of the Rio Treaty sets forth as its ultimate objective the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human interference with the world's climate system. The fear is that greenhouse gas emissions from humans will cause catastrophic global warming. While water vapor is the most prevalent greenhouse gas by far, and perhaps the least understood, the primary greenhouse gas caused by human activity is carbon dioxide (CO₂). CO₂ emissions are caused by humans when we burn fossil fuels.

The appropriate atmospheric CO₂ level is, of course, scientifically unknowable. Those involved with the Rio Treaty, however, have openly stated that they have already decided that increasing

atmospheric CO₂ content from *current levels* is dangerous. They conclude this knowing that to stabilize atmospheric CO₂ at *current levels*, emissions by humans from burning fossil fuels must be **reduced by 60%** from 1992 levels.

Since fossil fuels are burned by some humans somewhere all of the time, the Rio Treaty thus represents an initial step by government to massively regulate almost all human activity everywhere all of the time.

Subsequent steps down the path of pervasive government control of human industrial activity have been taken pursuant to the Rio Treaty under the leadership of my government, the United States of America. In Berlin in 1995 and again in Geneva in 1996, the U.S. and other treaty parties signaled their intention to adopt legally binding restraints on CO₂ emissions in the developed countries (but not the undeveloped countries) through such potential instruments as energy taxation or CO₂ allowance trading schemes.

Because officials involved in this process in our respective governments know how fierce will be the opposition to CO₂ emission restraints from industrial interests, expect incremental targets and large loopholes in the protocol or other treaty amendments to emerge from the next scheduled meeting in Kyoto, Japan in late 1997. But assuming the current political *status quo* in the U.S. Executive Branch, there *will be* an agreement that *will codify* what my leaders decided on a political basis long ago: Industrial emissions of CO₂ by humans are bad and must be, over time, systematically reduced in the developed world to something approaching zero.

It is the U.S. that is pushing the Rio Treaty. Let's acknowledge that but for U.S. leadership and financial commitment of over \$2 billion per year toward climate change research, the Rio Treaty would be an empty shell. I am amazed by this because of the reliance by U.S. citizens on fossil fuels to maintain their quality of life. The inescapable fact is, however, that the Rio Treaty is aimed at U.S. citizens by Americans.

Vice President Al Gore has publicly stated (in a speech in Europe, of course) that the high standard of living that Americans enjoy is "unsustainable." Vice President Gore leads U.S. Executive Branch thinking on resource and energy issues. It is no secret that he is appalled by our reliance on coal-fired electricity. In the U.S., 56% of our electricity is generated by burning coal in generating assets that have a present value approaching \$1 trillion. We burn

900 million tons of coal per year and our electricity consumption is four times that of Japan, the second largest economy. We also consume far more energy than any other nation: three times as much as China, for example.

Rational people would conclude that U.S. reliance on coal-fired electricity gives us a competitive advantage in world trade because of its low cost. This, of course, would be a correct conclusion, as recent studies establish. Why leaders of a nation with clear trade advantages would disadvantage themselves for political reasons suggests something else is going on.

To understand Rio and what is behind it, then, you have to understand the powerful political force that modern day American environmentalism represents and how American environmentalists approach energy issues. The Rio Treaty is based on a vision that rejects the developed world's industrialized past and the industrial evolution of mankind. Rio is based on a vision of apocalypse, scarcity, drought, famine and pestilence. Rio is designed to limit the material progress of the human community based on a moral view of the present and future that by definition rejects the pro-human vision of all of the world's great religions.

The Rio Treaty is based on a vision put forth by American environmentalists that seeks to separate the human condition from conditions on Earth. That is, because environmentalists exalt an undisturbed Earth above all other values, the footprint of human activity on Earth must be minimal.

Coal and oil, the use of which are most threatened by the Rio Treaty, are among God's greatest gifts to the human community. Formed over eons, these fuels have laid in wait for development by humans as they carry out the Old Testament command. In Genesis, it is written:

God said, "Let us make humankind in our own image according to our likeness! Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the heavens, animals, all the Earth, and all crawling things that crawl upon the Earth!"

Bear fruit and be many and fill the Earth and subdue it! Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the heavens and all living things that crawl upon the Earth!"

And, of course, humans have done just that. Human population stood at around 250,000,000 people at the time of the birth of Christ and stayed level until the past few centuries (Figure 1). Around 1600, population growth accelerated, exploding in the 19th century. Today, almost 6 billion people populate the Earth and most experts expect population to grow to just under 10 billion within the next 30 years.

One reason for human success is the Earth's abundance of fossil fuels — particularly coal and oil. It is easy to conclude that, under a preordained plan, coal and oil lay in wait for exploitation by humans to permit our creation of an environment on Earth conducive to the spectacular success of our species.

While some might reject this notion in favor of global serendipity as an explanation, the fact is that fossil fuels enabled human ingenuity and gave us the Industrial Revolution. Our industrial evolution has unleashed the powerful economic forces represented by the countries of the Industrialized West and the rapidly growing economies of Asia. Now, as never before, we have the collective natural and human resources to raise the quality and longevity of life for everyone on Earth. This is in large measure because of our knowledge in locating, extracting and utilizing fossil fuels.

It is this very prospect which most alarms environmentalists. Consider the Morelia Declaration, a document signed by 100 leading environmentalists and writers following a conference in Lomas Barriloca, Mexico in the Fall of 1991. Notable among American signers are Thomas Lovejoy, of the Smithsonian Institution; Lester Brown, of the Worldwatch Institute; self-proclaimed energy and

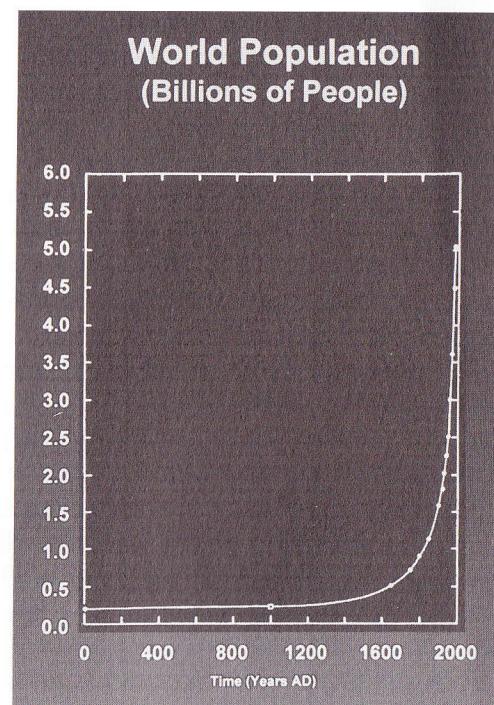


Figure 1.

electricity "expert," Amory Lovins; and F. Sherwood Rowland, former President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Morelia Declaration is a modern day manifesto for the environmental community and you should study it to understand the thinking of those who oppose the continued use of fossil fuels. After declaring that "life on our planet is in grave danger" from human activity on Earth, the signers of the Morelia Declaration state:

Seventy percent of the world's population lives within 100 miles of the sea. The profligate use of fossil fuels by the industrialized world is rapidly and irreversibly changing our climate. Experts stress that continued rising sea levels and global warming will lead to massive flooding of coastal areas, creating millions of new environmental refugees on an even greater scale than we witness annually in countries like Bangladesh.

The Morelia Declaration goes on to exalt biological diversity; condemns the wanton destruction of tropical forests in the Americas, Asia, and Africa; calls for an end to ecocide and ethnocide; condemns the disparity of wealth ("obscene" in their words) between the developed and developing countries; demands a transfer of knowledge and resources from North to South; demands that the world leaders sign the Rio Treaty; calls for the end of nuclear power; demands a reduction of 20% of CO₂ emissions by the year 2000; and concludes with the following:

If the latter half of the 20th century has been marked by human liberation movements, the final decade of the second millennium will be characterized by liberation movements among species so that one day *we attain genuine equality among all living things.*

[Emphasis added]

Not far from Lomas Barriloca, Mexico is the village of Riberalta, Bolivia. In the countryside just outside of Riberalta, the Maryknoll Nuns run a mission to help the desperately poor people who live in squalor. Jef Dolan, a family friend, neighbor and mother of U.S.

Olympic swimming star Tom Dolan, is a department head at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Jef recently visited the mission as a part of her continuing education and recounted to me her experience.

Around 50,000 people live in Riberalta and the small communities that surround it. Riberalta is located at the confluence of the Amazon and Beni Rivers. The Beni River is a water source for people there and it is contaminated beyond belief.

The life expectancy of people in Riberalta is 50 years. If children live past the age of two, it is a cause for celebration. Young women usually are mothers by age seventeen. There are no child labor laws and the children work twelve hour shifts harvesting nuts for \$3 a day. Slash and burn activity in the rain forest creates earth floors for huts and provides fuel for the homes. Girls do not go to school. Young boys may go through grade five, but then are consigned to labor. Obviously, none of the children have what we would regard as a normal childhood.

The signers of the Morelia Declaration need not have travelled far to see a place where their ideal of "genuine equality among all living things" has been attained. But, of course, that's a journey they'll never take. People in Riberalta live little differently than the animals they compete with for food and resources. Animals walk freely around town. Trapped in a subsistence lifestyle, people are less free to realize their human potential. One reason why life in Riberalta is so desperate is because most people have no electricity and, of course, under the Rio Treaty, it is the goal of the signatory nations to restrain the growth in electricity production and consumption. The end result of such a policy is modelled by Riberalta: Only an elite populace has electricity and lives well.

Riberalta, Bolivia is not unique. 2.4 billion people on Earth lack electricity. 1.3 billion people in the developing world live in zones of dangerously unsafe air. According to the World Health Organization, four million Third World children under the age of five die each year from acute respiratory disease brought on in most cases by air pollution.

A particularly insidious form of air pollution unknown in our countries is called "rural smog." Rural smog occurs in poorly ventilated huts where fuel wood, cow dung or agriculture wastes are used for heating and cooking. We, of course, use electricity for these functions.

Pollution problems suffered by people in the Third World are all

but ignored by the environmental community. The concept of central station electrification in afflicted countries as a solution to pollution problems and to raise living standards is not acceptable to environmentalists.

Too many environmentalists show incredible disdain for human life when addressing what they see as competing demands for protecting species and habitats from human industrial development. In Gregg Easterbrook's *New York Times Magazine* article in 1994*, he asked one environmentalist about this lack of concern for the millions of children dying from impure water and air. The answer?

The human species is not imperiled; look at the incredible number of births in the developing world. We must concentrate on protecting species and habitats that are imperiled.

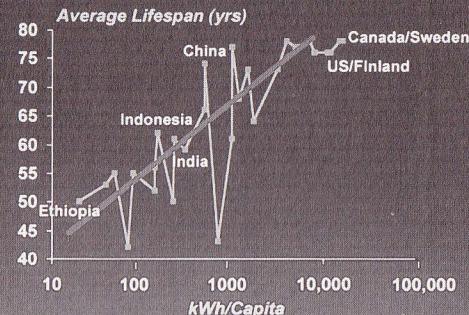
The environmental ethic that is embedded in the Rio Treaty is similar in its disdain for people. The Rio Treaty embraces an ethic that forbids further development of fossil fuels to lengthen the lives and raise the living standards of the impoverished on Earth. The Rio Treaty requires a lessening use of fossil fuels by the developed countries with no concept as to what happens when and if we actually try to do this. The environmental ethic embedded in the Rio Treaty is profoundly wrong.

There is a direct correlation between the availability of electricity and life expectancy (*Figure 2*). The life span of people living in the electrified countries of the world, which not uncoincidentally are the developed countries, can be seen on the upper right and exceed 75 years. This is where the U.S., U.K., Australia, Japan and the OECD nations are. On the low end are those countries where electrification is a luxury and not available to the common man; countries like Ethiopia, Tanzania, Bangladesh and Nepal. The middle area is the developing nations: Indonesia, India, China, Mexico, Egypt and Brazil.

There is also a direct linkage between electricity consumption and wealth (*Figure 3*). Developing nations start with animal power and direct combustion of wood and dung, and move towards oil for transportation and electricity generation. China and Indonesia are on the lower left. Brazil and Korea are just beyond. Advanced nations tend to rely on coal-fired electricity and nuclear power

*"Forget PCB's. Radon. Alar." *The New York Times Magazine*, September 11, 1994, pp. 60-63.

Global Linkage Between kWh & Lifespan



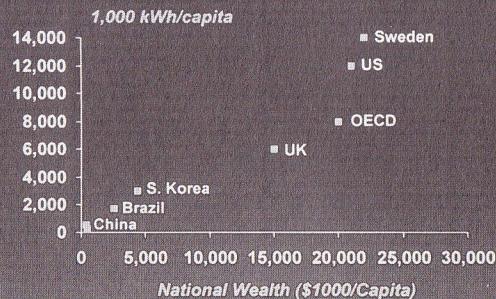
Early uses characterized by pumps (water & sewage), refrigeration, lights
Advanced nations continue to electrify with "high tech" and information
dominated and material-saving industrial systems dominated by
electrotechnologies

Mills • McCarthy & Assoc., 1996

Figure 2.

Global Linkage Between kWh & Wealth

Electricity Consumption & National Wealth



Developing nations start with animal power and direct combustion (wood, dung) and move towards oil for transportation and kWh for everything else.
Advanced nations increase use of coal-fired kWh and increasingly use n. gas as kWh source.

Mills • McCarthy & Assoc., 1996

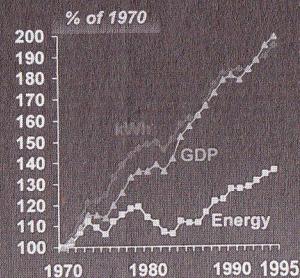
Figure 3.

and their people have a higher standard of living as a result. These are the U.K., U.S. and Sweden on the upper right.

Economic growth and electricity consumption growth is directly linked in industrial nations. The experience of the U.S. and Japan

Industrial Nation's Continue Electrification Trend

United States



Economic growth is linked to kWh growth in all industrial
Role of nuclear & hydro significant in a few countries where been available in the past, (future leaves a major gap)
Coal largest single source of industrial national kWh growth
Coal 60% of 1973-1994 increase in U.S. electric supply (40% nuclear)
Coal 38% of 1973-1994 total industrial world electric supply (50% nuclear)

Mills • McCarthy & Assoc., 1996

Japan

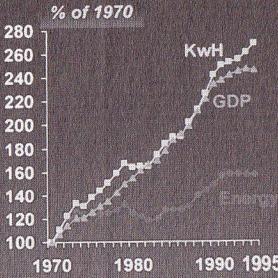
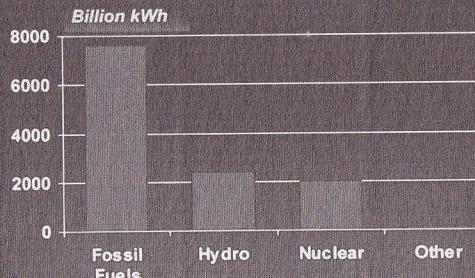


Figure 4.

Sources of the World's Current Electric Supply

Global Sources of Electricity



75% of all fossil kWh comes from coal

Mills • McCarthy & Assoc., 1996

Figure 5.

is similar to the rest of the OECD countries (Figure 4). Fossil fuels are by far the largest source of electric supply for the world (Figure 5). Coal is 75% of fossil-fired generation and some five billion tons are burned annually around the world.

In the industrial nations, people consume between 6,000 and 10,000 kWh per capita. In the developing world, electricity

consumption runs 3,000 kWh or less. In the undeveloped world, people consume less than a thousand kWh.

It cannot be denied that the large and growing population of the world needs coal and oil for quality of life and economic development. It cannot be denied that coal and oil have anchored economic growth over the past few decades of the post-industrial modern age.

It cannot be denied that coal and oil are key to increased electrification for all the peoples of the world, including those who live desperately in poverty and who have no ability to break free of their current system unless economic growth becomes a part of the fabric of their every day experience.

With soaring electric demand anticipated worldwide, there can be no question that coal demand will increase (*Figures 6 and 7*). Renewable technologies have their place. We should provide research funds to tap the potential that may be there. But renewables are expensive and cannot serve as a substitute for coal and oil in our lifetime, nor will they in our childrens' lifetimes. Nor should they until and unless they can compete on a price basis with the combustion of coal and oil as an energy source.

I submit today that there is no science that justifies curtailing the widespread and robust use of coal and oil where those fuels are utilized cleanly and efficiently. I submit today that there is no science that justifies a top down dictate by the combined govern-



Figure 6.

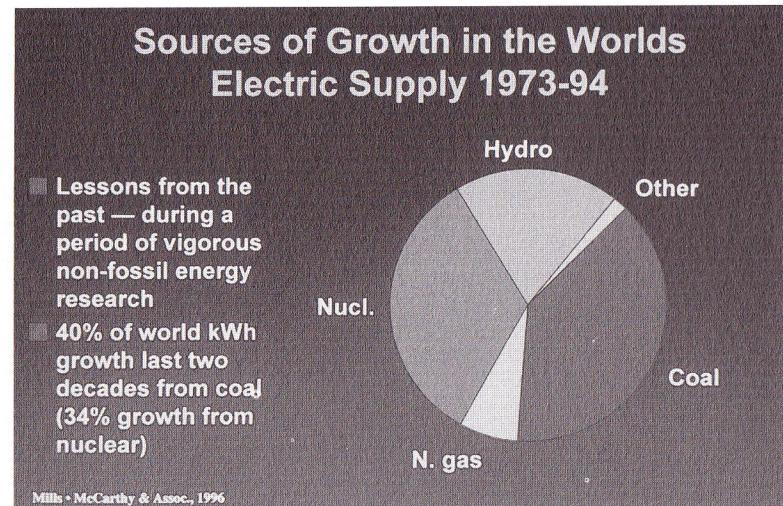


Figure 7.

ments of the world intending to limit the utilization of coal and oil for the peoples of the world given that there are clear and demonstrable benefits from the utilization of these fuels.

I submit today that the vision of the environmental community that is embodied in the Rio Treaty is a flawed vision. It is a vision that exalts the Earth over people in direct contravention of the teachings of the great religions of the world.

But as someone who has participated in this debate for eight years and who understands the forces arrayed against the continued use of coal and oil, I also submit that it is not enough to curse the darkness, rather, we must light a candle and show the rest of the world the benefits of what the fossil fuels industries do for them. In this way, we can clear away the fog created by the environmental community in its rush to impose on the world their vision of scarcity and deprivation, a vision based on apocalypse and a vision contrary to all recorded human history.

The approach that needs to be taken is twofold. The first we have discussed. It is essential that we create new institutions, or redirect existing ones, and commit the resources to exalt what it is that we do to show the benefits of fossil fuels to all of humanity. Secondly, and as important, it is essential that we continue to expose the scientific failure of the vision of climate apocalypse that now prevails at the United Nations.

CO₂ emissions from burning coal and other fossil fuels "is

rapidly and irreversibly changing our climate . . . [due to] . . . global warming . . ." according to the Morelia Declaration. Vice President Gore shares this view and his book *Earth In the Balance* centers on the threat of catastrophic global warming. The United Nations has now joined in this chorus and calls for substantial reductions in the use of fossil fuels to meet the perceived catastrophe. The U.N. justifies this call through misleading and disingenuous scientific declarations by its Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

All of these sources are remarkably similar in their analysis of perceived environmental problems. The three sources are similar in the certainty they bring to their subject matter. Firm views, such as these, will brook no dissent. There is one final similarity; *they are all wrong*.

Take a look at *Figure 8*. The graph shows minimal warming based on air temperature records taken from balloons and from satellites. The satellite record actually shows global cooling, according to scientists. The balloon records go all the way back to 1958. The more recent satellite record shows strong agreement with balloon-based records.

The land-based record shows some warming, but the warming indicated is itself not consistent with the vision of apocalypse advanced by environmentalists. According to Dr. Roy W. Spencer, atmospheric scientist at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space

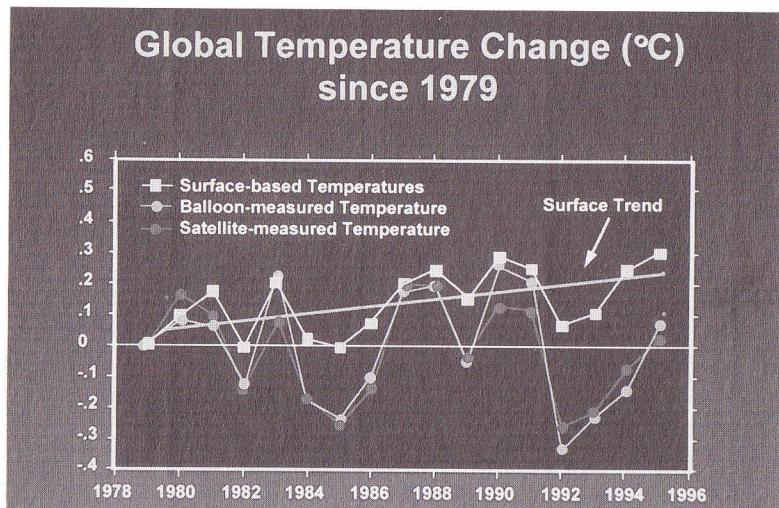


Figure 8.

Global Temperature Change (°C) from Satellite Measurements

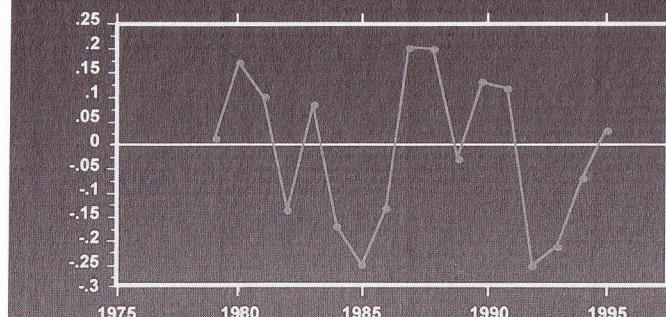


Figure 9.

Administration (NASA), the ground-based record is tainted by the urban heat island effect because the thermometers are located in growing cities where ever-increasing steel and concrete retain heat and raise temperatures. Meanwhile, large areas of the globe (oceans and deserts) have no weather stations and are represented by readings from the same large cities. In any event, Dr. Spencer notes the correlation between all three records and states that the satellite data is by far the most representative of the entire globe (*Figure 9*).

The Rio Treaty is based on climate forecasts from flawed, flux-adjusted computer models that are unable to "hindcast" past climate conditions, that are unable to correctly portray present-day climate variables such as the behavior of the jet stream and precipitation, and that predict present-day temperatures much warmer than those that actually exist, particularly in key polar regions. *Figure 10* shows the wide disparity between satellite readings of actual temperatures in the northern hemisphere and those predicted by the flawed, flux-adjusted models on which the Rio Treaty was based.

The satellite data is so accurate that warming induced by the glow of a full moon was detected by Dr. Robert Balling of the Laboratory of Climatology at Arizona State University. The warming detected by Dr. Balling is a tiny 0.7 of 1% of the warming anticipated from the enhanced greenhouse effect; yet the latter warming is conspicuous in its absence. Of the environmentalists I

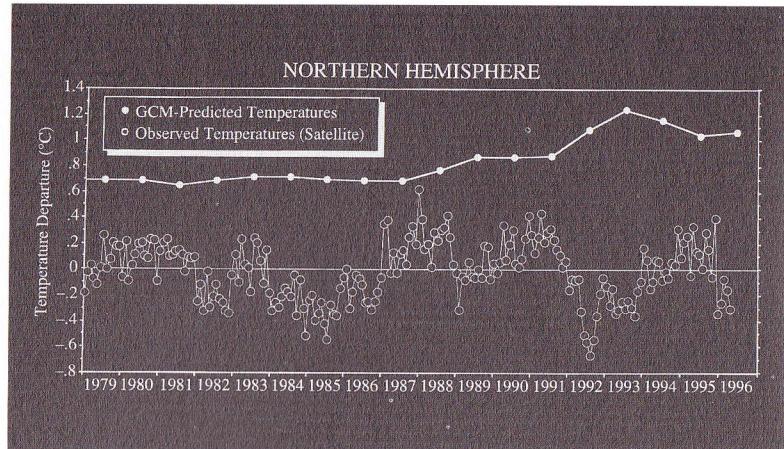


Figure 10.

ask: If all of the troubles of our physical environment are caused by global warming, as your continuing stream of U.S. taxpayer-funded studies claim, how can this be since there is no warming?

A telling example of the U.N.'s problem is the data it relies upon to demonstrate how ground-based temperatures are increasing in California. As is shown here (Figure 11), there is a warming trend in California of nearly 1°C until you strip away those parts of the California temperature record which are subject to the "urban heat island effect." As you can see, rural ground-based temperature records in California show no trend whatsoever.

Another major flaw of the U.N. vision of apocalypse is that it ignores increasing evidence of benign climate change and a posi-

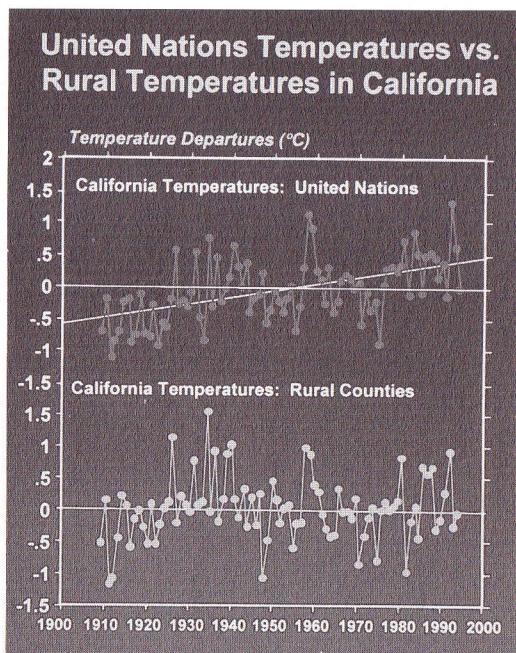


Figure 11.

tive impact on the biosphere from elevated atmospheric CO_2 content. My organization explored this subject in depth in a video titled *The Greening of Planet Earth*, which was released in 1991. This video should be viewed by all who have an interest in the Rio Treaty and the environmentalists' claim of a coming apocalypse.

As the video makes clear, rather than fearing increased atmospheric CO_2 emissions, we should welcome such emissions since, in the words of U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist Dr. Herman Mayeux, a CO_2 enriched atmosphere will bring . . .

A better world, a more productive world. Plants are the basis for all productivity on Earth. They are the only organisms that can utilize the Sun's energy and create matter, food, and they're going to do that much more effectively, much more efficiently.

Since the video, there have been periodic reports in scientific journals that confirm its central thesis. As the next two figures show, the seasonal oscillation of CO_2 concentration on a yearly basis has been increasing since records were kept in 1958 (Figures 12 and 13). In the Spring, plants take up CO_2 as they grow. In the Fall, deciduous plants release CO_2 to the atmosphere as leaves die. The graphs measure uptake and release, thus measuring plant productivity and establishing the more robust nature of the biosphere due to the ever increasing atmospheric CO_2 levels. In a

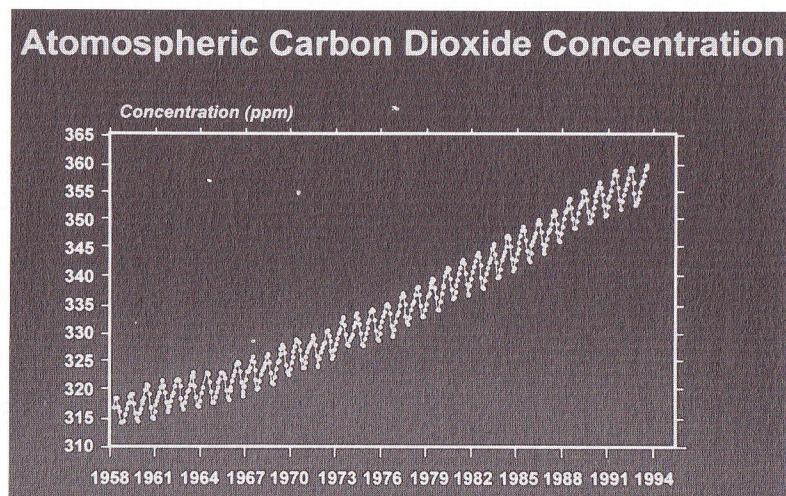


Figure 12.

recent *Nature* report, a longer growing season was also identified as a result of the amplitudes in CO₂ concentrations on a seasonal basis. A longer growing season means a more robust biosphere and a greener Earth.

In a July 12, 1996, *Washington Post* story, the reporter noted a spurt of more productive tree growth in the Black Forest. This is the same forest that environmentalists predicted some fifteen years ago would be dead today. The 30% increase in growth of the Black Forest is identical to that predicted in the video *The Greening of Planet Earth*.

In July 1996, the *Smithsonian* magazine reported on experiments in the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Research now shows that higher levels of CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere will mean more robust growth of aquatic plants. The scientists concluded that CO₂ is rejuvenating these plants and thus, rejuvenating the Chesapeake Bay.

In the video, you will also find the following question and answer concerning one aspect of the climate system of Earth:

Narrator:

“But even if the Earth does warm a certain amount, what effect will this have?

Dr. Sherwood Idso (U.S. Department of Agriculture):
If there were to be a warming of the world, there would be a warming of the oceans and this would

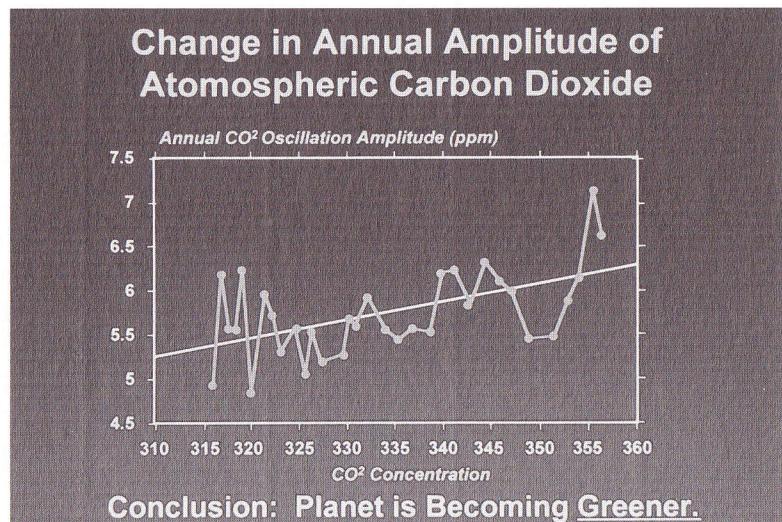


Figure 13.

increase the productivity of the unicellular algae or phytoplankton that live there. This would increase their production of various substances that when they die are released to the surface waters of the ocean. One of these substances is something we call dimethylsulfide, or DMS. It makes its way into the atmosphere as a gas where it is converted into particles around which water vapor condenses to create more cloud particles. With more cloud particles, you have brighter clouds. This reflects more of the incoming solar radiation back to space and it cools the planet.”

In a 1994 study, as reported in the April 21, 1994 edition of *Environment Week*, a researcher from North Carolina State University, Dr. Vinod Saxena, conducted experiments confirming the DSM phenomenon predicted by Dr. Idso. The tests were conducted in Antarctica because of the absence of human-produced gases to affect natural processes. In a report presented to the American Geophysical Union, Dr. Saxena identified nucleation bursts in clouds with an increase of four times the normal level, which led to a “quasi-steady state” of cloudiness in the area. According to Dr. Saxena, this identification proves that natural processes are able to react to warming in the atmosphere due to rising concentrations of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, whether generated naturally or by mankind, and generate more cloud cover to produce a countervailing, cooling effect.

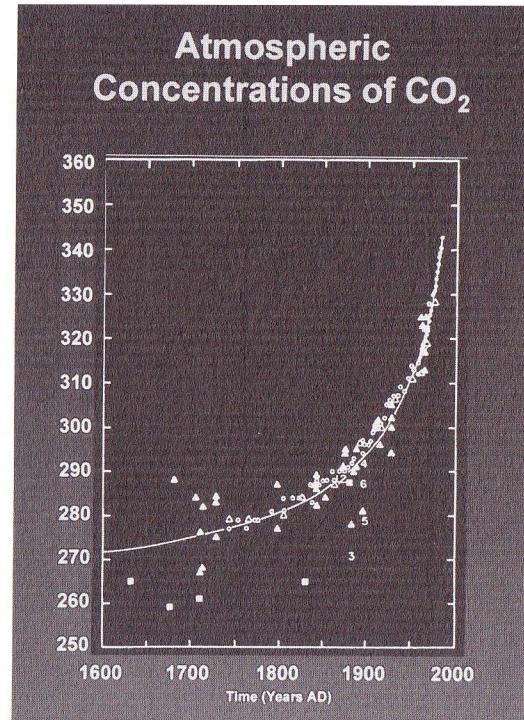
Dr. Saxena went on to note that the finding of increased cloud formation at four times the normal level was especially significant since large-scale global warming models have shown that such an amount of extra cloud formation could counter the impact of a doubling of CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere.

I stand before you today and say with complete conviction that the science conveyed in the video *The Greening of Planet Earth* is sound, because such science is continually reaffirmed by observations. It's not that the environmentalists' vision of apocalypse is based on uncertain science. The environmentalists' vision of apocalypse is simply wrong. Humans living on Earth are creating conditions for more humans to live on Earth, just as the wildebeests create conditions for their proliferation on the Serengeti Plain.

The U.N. adopted vision of apocalypse represents an abuse of computer technology in a vain attempt to reverse a law of nature established through 400 years of observation: Human industrial evolution and CO₂ levels in the atmosphere are linked. The more people there are and the more advanced our industrial evolution, the more CO₂ there is.

Figure 14 shows the increases in atmospheric CO₂ concentration in the last 400 years. Figure 15 shows the correlation between the number of people on Earth and atmospheric CO₂ content over the same 400 years. There is a one-to-one correlation between the number of people on Earth and Earth's atmospheric CO₂ content. It is, in other words, in the nature of things.

No government, however powerful, can pass a law commanding the sun not to rise nor the moon not to set. No government, however powerful, can pass a law preventing ocean tides from rising and falling in



Slide 14.

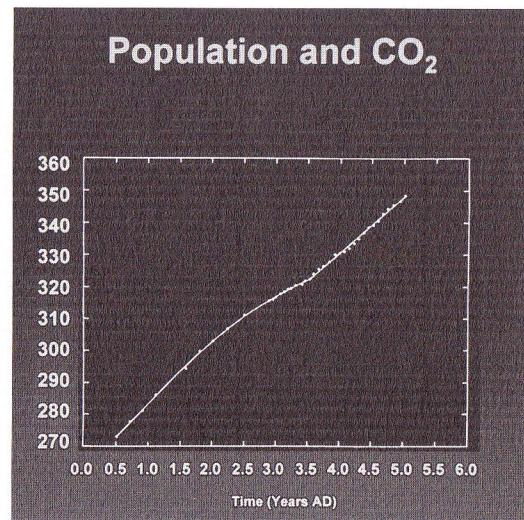


Figure 15.

harmony with the gravitational pull of the moon. No government, however powerful, can order the winds not to blow, the rain not to fall, nor the seasons not to change.

And yet, many of our governments today, under the auspices of the Rio Treaty, have the arrogance to attempt to intervene in the normal industrial evolution of mankind and to send the community of humans on Earth into totally uncharted waters, where we are to seek energy we need for life on Earth from speculative and expensive resources, while denying the poorest among us the utilization of fossil fuels to uplift themselves. This is simply wrong and it must be resisted; and it must be a part of our message in the resistance.

Something so obviously wrong can only be explained by virtue of a different philosophy, a different way of looking at things, as we have explored earlier with respect to the thinking of the environmental community. But the environmentalists, after all, are not our enemies. They, like us, are trying to do things correctly as they perceive them. It is not inappropriate, however, for us to point out to them that we believe they are wrong and for us to pursue those things that we think are right. And in pointing out to them they are wrong, we might remind them of the message conveyed to us in the *Desiderata*:

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

So the message to the environmental community and to our political leaders is that we are a part of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars, as we are part of the Earth itself, and that the resources of the Earth were put here by the Creator for the utilization of us all, rich and poor alike, to uplift our lives as we go forward in the journey that we're on.

We should go forward in good faith, struggling to do the right thing, at the right time, but always for the benefit of people. In this process it is necessary for us to have our own vision. Where the vision of environmentalists is based on scarcity, ours should be based on abundance. Where their vision is based on denial of the human community being a part of the evolving history of Earth, ours should be one based on our unity with Earth's natural evolution.

For me, here is the vision I would like to see us adopt and the message we should deliver to our governments as they go about the important business of dealing with our energy future:

- 1) More people are living and are living longer because of fossil fuels. Utilizing them is as natural as breathing and their use should and will continue for so long as they are used cleanly and efficiently and provide us energy at the lowest price.
- 2) The living standard of the citizens of the developed countries of the industrialized West is the envy of the world. We should help the billions of people who live like animals and in abject poverty to achieve our standard of living by sharing our know how and technology.
- 3) Widespread availability of cheap electricity generated by burning fossil fuels is one reason why the industrialized West has high living standards and low inflation. Government interference in the utilization of fossil fuels and in energy markets will cause widespread suffering for the common man due to high prices and will result in continued poverty for billions in the underdeveloped countries of the world.

Do we have sufficient natural resources to allow ten billion people on Earth to live the way the middle class now lives in the industrialized West? Of course, we do. We do because over one trillion tons of recoverable coal reserves have been identified around the world. We do because hundreds of billions of barrels of oil lie in wait for future utilization by generations yet to come.

But mostly we have the capability of achieving this goal because of the ultimate natural resource, the human mind. Humans living and working in free economies where they are allowed to keep the fruits of their labor and better their situation according to their ability have produced a revolution in technology over the last thirty years with the advent of the computer and the microprocessor. George Gilder calls our present day technological wonders the Age of the Microcosm, an age where matter is of much less importance than the freed intellect of the human mind.

Today's Internet is the microcosm's microcosm and represents

the ultimate extension of the human mind through technology. Human intellect and ingenuity at work collectively in the microcosm will allow us to efficiently utilize the natural resources that exist to raise the living standard of all on Earth. The only constraint on this ability is the stifling hand of bureaucracy manifested through command and control central government. If, as free people, we reject this approach and direct our governments to join with industry in a constructive partnership to benefit people instead of hindering people, the combined talent and resources of the world's fossil energy community can be unleashed to solve the problems of the communities of the world like Riberalta, Bolivia. This will happen if you make the personal commitment to be involved in this great effort to convince the citizens and decision makers of your own country to allow it to happen.